

Everybody's Going to Dr. Theo. Smith's Grand Opening Easter Sunday

Where are the Dead

A Masterly Discussion of a Question that has Engaged the Attention of the Foremost Theologians and Scientists of the World.

(From the pen of the recognized genius in Oratory, Vermillion A. D. Murray, Jr., 1306 Woodland Avenue, Kansas City, Mo.)

Guided by the Lord's providence to a realization that the Bible has been slandered, as well as its divine author, and that, rightly understood, it teaches nothing concerning a "hell" or a "burning hell" or an eternity of misery derogatory to God's character, nor to an intelligent reason, I briefly attempted in my last discourse to lay bare the Scripture teaching on this subject, that thereby faith in God and his Word may be re-established, in the hearts of all who might have become interested in my discussion, on a better, a reasonable foundation.

I shall now direct your special attention to one of the many varied false ideas that are prevalent in the Christian church concerning the dead. But, before proceeding with the portrayal of facts concerning the dead and of the false opinions of God's plan of dealing with the incorrigible, taught ever since the great falling away which culminated in Papacy, and instilled into our minds from childhood, which are alone responsible for the view generally held, I wish to remind you of this fact, to wit: Should a man declare himself uninterested in the facts concerning hell, (hades the grave) or the dead, would he be a recluse himself idiotic—thoughtless. For, if the ordinary affairs of this present life, food, raiment, finance, politics, etc., which concern us but a few years are deemed worthy of thought, study how much more concern should we have in respect to the eternal future of ourselves and neighbors and mankind in general?

As a matter of fact, I shall continue to confine myself to discussions of this nature, until I have fully succeeded in setting aside the idle reason and the most skeptical regarding their



V. A. D. Murray, Jr., beliefs and doctrines. Christian scholarship would be a blessing to those who continue to cling to the old Papal ideas. But, nevertheless the same is essential to all. So is the faculty of reason to every man who has claimed the divine authority to preach. But, how many are they who really exercise that important faculty? I answer with shame—only a few. To say all, would be to evade the truth. To say the majority, would be an untruth, I now return to my subject. It is a common custom for a minister when officiating at funerals or other occasions when the question of the dead arises to announce that the deceased has gone immediately to his destination—its reward or its punishment. In other words he preaches the soul to Heaven or to "hell." In the name of Christian civilization, I want to know, where did he get such a doctrine? It must be of his own inspiration. Is it a fact that he is justified in making such declarations regarding the dead? I answer in the name of God, and with all the emphasis at my command, no a thousand times no.

The very idea of any one assuming that the soul goes immediately to its eternal abode at death. Assuredly no man can subscribe to a more barbarous and absurd belief. Do not the Scriptures agree from first to last that the dead know not anything; that the sons come to honor and they know it not; they come to dishonor and they perceive it not of them? Do not the Scriptures tell us where the dead are and their condition; that they are experiencing neither joy or sorrow, pleasure nor suffering; that they will have no knowledge of anything done under the sun until their awakening in the Resurrection? Why then allow these human misconceptions and misinterpretations influence you to such false views regarding the dead? True, we have followed the wrong teacher too long; the one of whom our Lord said: "He abode not in the Truth," and that he is the father of lies. We shall now consider for a moment the question of the dead. Would it not be unreasonable to believe that should God permit anyone to enter the kingdom of Heaven immediately at death, and then on the day of the Resurrection to call him forth into judgment after he had tasted of the fruits of eternal life; knowing too, that God has but one appointed time to render judgment to the human race and that is during the Millennial age? Note the implied words of our Lord: "The hour is coming in which all that are in their graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good unto the Resurrection

of life; and they that have done evil unto the Resurrection of life." Suppose some one was accused of committing a crime and immediately sent to the penitentiary without due process of law, and then on the day designated for his trial allowed to come forth and appear before the bar of justice. Would we not consider that absurd? How much more absurd would it be if the same could be attributed to our Heavenly Father's dealing with man who is all-wise and infallible? Was not our blessed Saviour in "Hades" (Hades) until the third day and resurrected from "Hell" (Hades)? Was he not delivered for our offences, went to "Hell," the grave, the condition of death, destruction and second, that according to promise he had been delivered from HELL, the grave, the condition of death, destruction by a resurrection, arising up to life; being created again, the same identical being yet more glorious and exalted even to "the express image of the Father's person?" Note the familiar but misleading words of the hymn book, I have a sister over yonder on that other bright shore; I have a mother over yonder on that other bright shore beckoning to me to come and meet her; or, I have a friend who is lost; suffering eternal woe and everlasting pain, etc. Graces! Graces! Deliver me from the bad influences of these "sacred songs" and from the ignorance of this world! I, too had a saintly brother who departed this life some years ago; but he is in hell (shoel the grave) and there to remain until the day when Gabriel shall sound the trumpet. And in conclusion my dear readers, I remind you that the Apostle speaks of those who "Sleep in Jesus," and of those who have "fallen asleep in Christ," who, he declares are perished, if there be no resurrection of the dead. Could they perish in Heaven or in Purgatory or in a hell of torment? Assuredly no one so teaches. They are already in a perished condition in the tomb; and the perishing would be absolute complete unless a resurrection be provided for their deliverance from the power of death, hence we read, "God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have eternal life. Again, we note in the Genesis, an account of man's fall and the sentence imposed, but found no suggestion of a future punishment, but merely of a death penalty. Repeating the second time the Lord said "Dust thou art, and unto dust thou shalt return." But he said not a word respecting devils, fire and torment. How, then did the Adversary deceive our fathers during the "dark ages" with his errors which the Apostle styles "doctrines of devils?"

Not the fact that none of the prophecies mention any other than a death penalty for sin. Note that the New Testament likewise declares the same. St. Paul, who wrote more than half of the New Testament, and who assures us that he did "not shun to declare the whole counsel of God," says not a word about torment. The fact is, we have drifted so far away from the proper observance and comprehension of the word of God, and his clear, plain, reasonable, just, loving and wise program that today, "truth is stranger than fiction." Long has the truth been overlooked and for centuries buried under the rubbish of human tradition of the "dark ages," that should the truth be revealed, it would astonish the most thoughtful and intelligent minds and be listened to with breathless interest. But the Lord through the Prophet Isaiah has well declared: "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my plans higher than your plans."

BABY CONTEST AND SHOW.

Allen Chapel 10th and Charlotte Streets Wednesday, April 15, at 8 O'Clock P. M.

A Baby Contest and Show will be given under the auspices of the Arab District, Rev. Clara Franklin, D. D., Presiding Elder, 2626 Highland Avenue, Bell Phone East 804 and elev. Margaret Bass, D. D., Presiding Elder of the Up and Down District, 2642 Highland Avenue, Bell Phone, East 1108 of the Matter of Fact Conference, "Bishop" W. H. Dawley, Jr., D. D., L. D., D. C. L., presiding. Prizes of \$10, \$5, \$2.50 will be awarded that night, April 15th to the babies receiving the first, second and third highest vote. Votes are ten cents each. Enter your own or your friend's baby at once and get books from the above presiding Elders. Age limit for entries 4 months to two years.

SPRING CONVOCATION — KANSAS CITY CONSISTORY NO. 7.

The Spring Convocation of Kansas City Consistory No. 7, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite Masons to be held April 7 to 9 will surpass any of its previous efforts. Already 31 petitions are in and more are on the way. The Rite is thoroughly alive and interested in the work as never before. Many out of town brethren are availing themselves of this opportunity to obtain more light and delegations from Independence, Marshall, Moberly and as far east as Louisiana, Mo. will make the journey thither. It is expected that as many as 50 candidates will take the degrees. Allah Temple No. 6, Mystic Shrine will also confer degrees.

Magnificent Address

The Most Delightful and Entertaining Lecture Heard in Allen Chapel in Years was that of

DR. SAMPSON BROOKS

On last Monday night, more than one hundred of the most representative colored people of this city gathered in Allen Chapel to hear what proved to be the most brilliant and entertaining address, so many declare, ever delivered within the historic walls of old Allen. The speaker of the evening was the Reverend W. Sampson Brooks, D. D., the popular pastor of St. Paul A. M. E. Church, St. Louis, Mo., and who is known throughout America as the financial king of the race, having raised more cash money in one rally than any other Negro pastor in America. Dr. Brooks' subject was "What a Black Man Saw in a White Man's Country," and for more than two hours he swayed his audience to suit his own fancy. First screaming with laughter and again wildly applauding some magnificent burst of oratory from the lips of the distinguished orator. To say that Dr. Brooks pleased his audience is but a faint conception of the expression of approval heard on every side and should he be induced to make a return engagement it is doubted whether historic Allen will be able to hold the throng that will crowd to hear him. His quaint and pleasing narrative of his experiences on his first trip to the old World evoked peals of laughter from his delighted hearers and his narration in which he rose to the heights of sublime eloquence and passionately appealed to his race to be true to race ideals, to be proud of their history, their features, the color of their skin, their hair and with all their God, provoked an ovation such as has been seldom witnessed in a gathering of representative Negroes. Dr. Brooks was the recipient of warm congratulations from hundreds who heard his lecture and the pastor and nine Bishops of the Mock Conferences are to be congratulated upon having been able to furnish the people of Kansas City such a masterly and enjoyable treat.

SOME OF THE STRUGGLES OF THE NEGRO PRESS.

One evening this week at the close of a very busy day I drew me up at my desk. Before me was scattered a mass of newspapers, all bearing the distinction of colored. My already tired brain and sun strained eyes at once refused the task that was set before. But from somewhere and somehow I gained courage, and plunged in by striving with the one on top—it was the Oklahoma—O, there I go, I didn't mean to call any names, but the press work on that particular journal was so poor that one could not even properly translate the answers to Booker Washington's article, asking for better traveling accommodations for Negro passengers over certain railroad lines; which was bravely undertaken. The Dallas Express came in for a similar criticism while the Boston Alliance and Conservative Counselor is void of that harmonious toning with other parts of the papers on account of too much front page advertisement. In others there were similar and even more grievous errors.

The colored papers that take first rank in typographical cleanliness and mechanical accuracy are the Amsterdam News, Richmond Planet, Kansas City Sun, and New York Age.

It is with no small degree of appreciation that I review the merits and demerits of these journals and journalists, who are struggling as I am; for to publish a Negro journal at this period means sacrifice at every step. I see written in great headlines at the head of the nearest effort in the way of a Negro journal these words, "Self Sacrifice."

Our readers are more sensitive to literary abuse in a race paper than they are to the big dailies. I often have a man come into my office to complain about a stick of matter upside down in the last issue of an article that was backed up the wrong way. Now, if he, perhaps, knew that my day had been 36 hours instead of eight in comparison with his, instead of criticizing he would step in and offer to pay his subscription with the hope that his mite might help a little in relieving the situation. For whenever you see faults standing out conspicuously in Negro papers there is but one conclusion to come to, and that is that finance is oh, so short. Now, don't stand apart and laugh jeeringly or criticize an effort that you yourself are not brave enough to make. If you cannot give thousands, you can give the widow's mite and the least you pay on your subscription will be precious in the editor's sight.—California Eagle.

THE KENSINGTON ART CLUB
EXHIBIT
Monday, April 13, 1914
AT LYRIC HALL

EVERYBODY IS GOING

Everybody is going to Smith's Drug Store to try the famous Tango Sundae on a Blazer.

The following is a list of distinguished guests and popular society people who have visited and declared the Tango Sundae to be the most delicious they have ever eaten.

Is Your Name in the List?

Miss Wauwabe C. Webb, John Roy Barker, Miss Beatrice Davis, Marion Smith, Effie Peniston, Miss Mary Smith, Miss Catherine Washington, Miss Anna Collier, Mrs. T. W. H. Williams, Miss Irma Anthony, Miss Edith Williams, Mrs. Greenstreet, Mrs. Randall, Mrs. Mickle, Prof. G. A. Page, Mrs. E. A. Walker, Mrs. Y. Bailey, Madame M. B. Dean, Mrs. E. T. Carrington, Miss Lena Allen, Mr. H. Hopkins, Mr. H. W. Milford, Mr. J. W. Moore, Mrs. W. L. Huddins, Mr. F. B. Davis, Miss Willie Glass, Miss Lillian Carey, Miss Dorothy Williams, Professor Mahry, Sallie Mae Nixon, Mrs. Grace Fannell.

L. A. Knox, M. C. Hollingsworth, Miss B. Galsberry, Mr. A. J. Rollins, Miss Florence Galsberry, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Taylor, D. G. Watson, Miss Estelle Greer, Grant Moore, Mrs. Lige Hendricks, Mrs. Williams, Mr. Thomas Sanders, Mrs. Geneva Sanders, Miss Minnie Coleman, Miss Lena Anderson, Mr. N. F. Ward, Mrs. Craig, Prof. Marquess, Miss Clymer, Mr. Roy Mosely, Miss Elvett Ewing, Miss Mattie Hanna, Mr. and Mrs. Ferguson, Mrs. Charles J. Adams, Miss Mamie Martin, Mr. Griggs, Mr. W. W. Young, Mrs. C. M. Thompson, C. W. Comar, Miss P. Brown, Mrs. Julius Fox, Miss Alene Fox.

Miss Kingsbury, Dr. Pearl, Mrs. E. V. McMullan, Mrs. Williams, Bond, Miss Maude Taylor, Mrs. E. A. Barnhill, Prof. T. W. H. Williams, Mrs. Haze Long, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. E. W. Hill, Mrs. Bruce, Miss Sweetman, Mr. Simpson, Mrs. Locke, Mrs. Hunter, Mr. Andrew G. Williams, Miss Carmen Hackett, Mrs. Frances Brown, Mrs. B. E. Strickland, Miss Mattie Ewing, Mrs. Charles Holmes, Mr. T. B. Beard, Bertie Taylor.

Mrs. E. L. Washington, Mrs. Edward Whitmore, Kansas City, Kas., Mrs. Whitmore, Mrs. E. L. Whitworth, Geo. Fortner, Mrs. M. L. Wiley, Mrs. Robt. F. Hurd, Chicago, Mrs. J. W. Mitchell, Mrs. Bernhardt, Mrs. Carter, Mrs. Robert, William F. Taylor, Mrs. Len Lore, Mrs. Millie Williamson, Mrs. A. L. Lankford, Mrs. N. H. Pickett, Mrs. Clara Gardner, Mrs. F. Pryor, Miss M. Akins, Mr. C. G. Gode, Mrs. E. L. Hollingsworth, Miss Emma Gardner, Mr. Andrew Rollins, Mrs. M. B. Carr, Rosedale, Kas., Miss Beatrice L. Schell, Miss Edna Kirkpatrick, Miss Mary Day.

The Ka-See Girls in a body, and the following Clio Club members: Mrs. P. C. Steward, Mrs. E. L. Whitworth, Mrs. E. L. Washington, also Mrs. E. L. Whitworth, Mrs. E. L. Bell, Mrs. E. L. Whitworth, Mrs. Williams, Mrs. E. C. Birch, Mrs. Elizabeth Stokes, and Mrs. Willis. Mrs. A. Williams, Mrs. T. L. Patton, Miss Sie Ford, Mrs. Wm. Carr, Miss Hattie Shy, Mr. Hubbard Ramsey, Mr. Dorsey Brown, Mrs. Tilford Davis, Jr., K. C., K., Mrs. J. Lewis Gambles, K. C., K.

Mrs. Dorsey, Mrs. Brown, Miss Stella Washington, Miss Coleman, Mr. Carter, Mr. W. L. White, Mrs. Wm. Carr, Mrs. Stewart, Mr. and Mrs. Franklin, Dr. E. C. Bunch, Mrs. B. L. Fisher, Mrs. A. E. Osborne of California.

Meet me at Smith's after the show after church or after the dance, where we can sit and talk the matter over and enjoy eating one of these Thrilling Tangos. Eighteenth and Tracy is the place.

THE VESTED CHOIR OF THE SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH.

Tenth and Charlotte Streets, in the Oratorio

The Seven Last Words of Christ

Thursday Evening, April 9, 8:30 o'clock. Cards, 25 cents

Mrs. L. J. Bacone, Mus. B. Directress. More than a thousand tickets have already been engaged; some of the BEST MUSICAL CRITICS OF BOTH RACES are among the patrons. It promises to be ONE OF THE BEST MUSICAL PRESENTATIONS EVER GIVEN and the Kansas City Sun predicts a record-breaking crowd April 9 to witness this musical treat by local artists. For tickets call Bell phone East 3522.

THE BRONZE KNIGHT.

Dr. L. A. Ferris Delivers His Famous Lecture to a Large Audience of Colored People.

Dr. Lincoln A. Ferris delivered a magnificent address on Frederick Douglass, "The Bronze Knight," at Lincoln High School auditorium, Thursday night, under the auspices of the Federated Alumni Association. Miss Anna Jones presided, and after prayer by Rev. W. H. Thomas and a solo by Prof. F. J. Work, she introduced the speaker of the evening, Mrs. J. E. Perry and Mrs. Estelle Weaver, granddaughters of the immortal Douglass, occupied seats on the platform. It is needless to say that it was one of the grandest lectures ever delivered and at its conclusion Dr. Ferris was given an ovation.

Stop Sunday Funerals

Pompous Funeral Processions Having a Morbid Effect.

(By Chas. A. Starks.)

One of the most baneful and morbid practices that is making itself felt among our people is the Sunday funeral with all of its pompous auxiliaries, a custom that has its origin in a fetich worship that belongs to ages of the past. The world in reaching forth for those things of a higher and more substantial nature, has neither time nor disposition to watch with any pleasure these vain processions of pomp that are being grafted upon the public mind, with the usual discordant band that shakes the telephone poles when making an attack on some swelling strain or a feeble attempt to keep alive a dying



CHAS. A. STARKS.

The versatile and brilliant correspondent of the Kansas City Sun.

militarism that is swiftly becoming obsolete, all of which strikes the thoughtful person as being ill timed and having no true place in our busy and progressive life. This tendency to worship the dead with such public demonstration is positively wrong, and brings to light one of the strangest paradoxes in all human affairs that of some deceased person, even below mediocrity note, figuring as the dead "principles" in a rich and expensive funeral where money, flowers, time and curiosity are lavished upon one, who in life, perhaps never enjoyed or even merited these things. No objections are advanced against relatives and friends showing proper concern regarding any deceased but in our burial ceremonies we should seek simplicity and divest the funeral of this unnatural pomp and vain glory, especially is this true of the Sunday funeral when so many people are compelled to either see these processions or listen to the Thanatopsis-like music.

Some prominent Mason has advised a more simple ceremony in affairs of this kind and for this reason we urge every lodge to refrain from the Sunday funeral whenever possible and if they must have turnouts, let them be in the week and not on the Sabbath. We understand that in Denver, Colo., that these processions are forbidden on Sunday by city regulations. Attending church on a Sunday one is invariably confronted with some funeral procession or the prospect of one, this should be stopped and there are several concrete reasons for doing so which we give below:

1st. The average colored person works hard six days in the week and should not have his day of rest and recreation disturbed by a pretentious funeral with an ill-tuned brass band as its chief feature.

procession and even request that no flowers be sent, and discourage curiosity by holding simple "services" from their residence. What the rich do from a good taste, the poor can do from the same, with this added virtue—economy.

We believe the above reasons are sufficient to warrant the discontinuance of the Sunday "practice" nor are we lacking in those human sympathies for one another in hours when some dear friend has closed his or her earthly career.

Sorrow wins its way to the receptive heart and needs no brass band to advocate its cause. The real sufferer or mourner does not seek the time light of public curiosity or vain display but rather quiet and solitude alone with God where vanity may be excluded from sorrow and the suffering one realizes the quality of infinity love to cure every human wound. If the deceased has demonstrated good in life, remember that the same cannot die. And that truth, however humble may be the one that lives it, has the quality of eternity stamped upon it and must live, just as true as error, vanity, falsehood, and other like things must perish, and cannot be perpetuated by any method of vain proceedings.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE TWIN CITY BAPTIST MINISTERIAL ALLIANCE OF KANSAS CITY.

In order that the public may not misunderstand the position taken by the Baptist Ministerial Alliance composed of all of the reputable pastors of the Baptist Churches of Kan-

PUBLIC CORDIALLY INVITED

TO
Double Grand Opening

NEW NO. 2
PALACE DRUG STORE
AND
CROTHWAIT FLORAL CO.

At 1611 East 18th Street.
PALM SUNDAY
Next Door to Gem Theatre

gentle bearing have won for him a substantial place in the hearts of the people of Kansas City irrespective of church or creed, and the people are glad that he has been returned by the Presiding Bishop at the Annual Conference held last week at Fulton, Mo.

A Splendid Work.

Since coming here six years ago, Dr. Davis has accomplished a splendid work for his church and has contributed very materially to the religious and moral uplift of his people in this city. He found a struggling congregation of about 250 members, discouraged and burdened with an indebtedness of \$6,000. During his ministry 742 additions have been gained and a membership of 880 was reported at the Conference just closed. The Church debt has been practically wiped out, there remaining only \$1,200 of the original debt. But this part of the record tells only a part of the story. For the repairs, improvements, upkeep of the property have been considerable, plus the pastor's salary and Conference Claims will bring the financial transactions close up to \$20,000 in the past six years.

Centennial Smiles. There were doubts, misgivings and fears until the news was flashed back Sunday morning that the esteemed reverend had been returned. Then Centennial put on a smile. He is still wearing it for Centennial knows who has been the instrument used by the Master in establishing his going. The Church is both thankful and glad to have the service, the labor, the pastorate and companionship of this venerable minister for another year.

34th Anniversary. The week of the 22d inst. beginning Wednesday, the congregation is making elaborate preparations to celebrate the 34th year of the founding of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Kansas City, which was done by the late Rev. Wm. R. Lawton, one of the early Grand Masters of the Missouri Jurisdiction of Ancient and Accepted Free Masons, to close with a grand rally Sunday the 26th. All of the former pastors now living will be invited to be present and take part and prominent men of the city of other denominations will be given a place on the program.

WOMAN LYNCHERS. Those Oklahoma villains who lynched a Negro woman the other night, called themselves brave men, yet they tied her hand and foot before they lynched her and beat her into insensibility. Brave men?—Bah, they are curs.

BLIND BOONE WELL AGAIN. We are pleased to announce that Blind Boone has fully recovered from his recent illness and is en tour again.

Respectfully yours,
REV. G. L. PRINCE,
REV. W. A. BOWREN,
REV. W. H. HILL,
Committee on Publication.



REV. RICHARD DAVIS.

The beloved pastor of Centennial M. E. Church, who has been returned for the sixth year to this splendid congregation.

CENTENNIAL REJOICES AND KANSAS CITY IS GLAD.

Dr. Davis Returned for Sixth Time. 34th Anniversary April 22-24.

RALLY SUNDAY, 26TH.

For the sixth time Rev. Richard Davis has been returned to Centennial M. E. Church. He has had many opportunities to leave Kansas City, but he has learned to love the people here and the people have reciprocated. His sturdy straightforward manner, upright Christian character, sterling manhood and, with all, his kind and